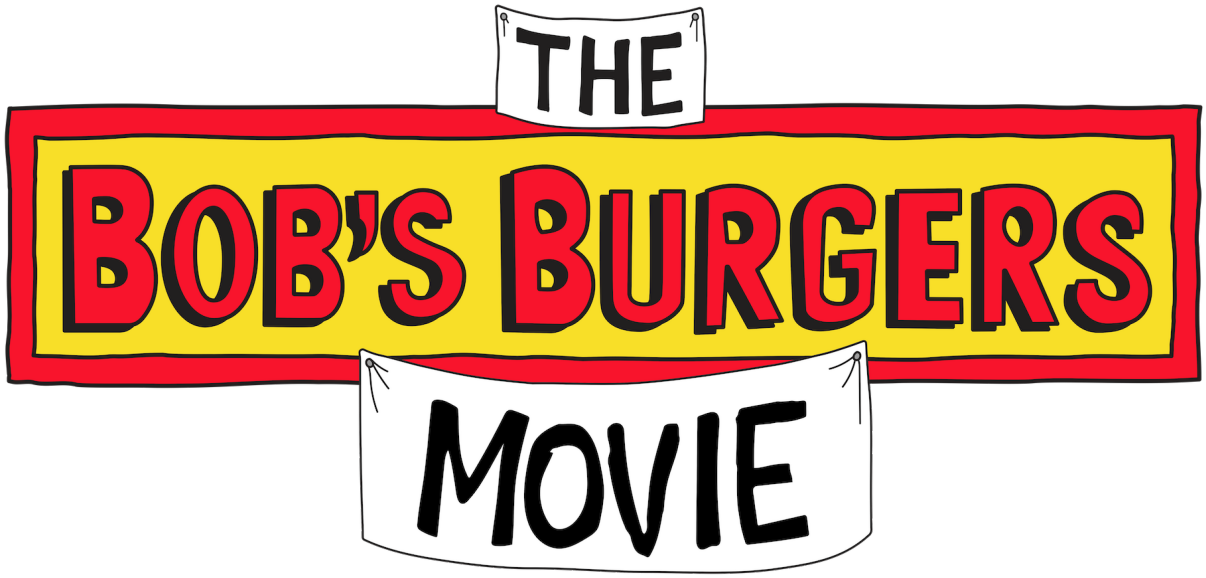

From 20th Century Studios comes “The Bob’s Burgers Movie,” an animated big-screen musical comedy-mystery-adventure based on the long-running Emmy®-winning television series. “The Bob’s Burgers Movie” stars H. Jon Benjamin, Dan Mintz, Eugene Mirman, Larry Murphy, John Roberts, Kristen Schaal, with Zach Galifianakis and Kevin Kline, all reprising their beloved roles for the fan-favorite animated comedy. The film’s directors are Loren Bouchard & Bernard Derriman. The screenplay is by Loren Bouchard & Nora Smith. The producers are Janelle Momary-Neely, Loren Bouchard and Nora Smith.

“The Bob’s Burgers Movie” arrives in theaters May 27, 2022.

ABOUT THE FILM

Ever since the animated comedy “Bob’s Burgers” debuted on FOX in January of 2011, the hilarious, heartwarming series has won over critics and audiences with its quirky characters, delightfully silly songs and offbeat storylines. Set in an unnamed beach town, the show follows the members of the ever-relatable Belcher family as they persevere through struggles ranging from the mundane to the absurd. No matter what obstacles come their way, though, worrywart dad Bob, upbeat wife Linda and their three children—boy-crazy Tina, affable Gene and precocious Louise—overcome them by relying on (and good-naturedly ribbing) one another.

After 12 acclaimed seasons, “Bob’s Burgers” has amassed a devoted fan base that has taken the quirky restaurant proprietors into their hearts. Now, series creator Loren Bouchard, working with screenwriting and producing partner Nora Smith and director Bernard Derriman, has crafted “The Bob’s Burgers Movie.” Original and inventive, the murder-mystery musical-comedy should satisfy longtime viewers at the same time as it invites newcomers into the Belchers’ colorful world.

The story begins when a ruptured water main creates an enormous sinkhole right in front of Bob’s Burgers, blocking the entrance indefinitely and ruining the Belchers’ plans for a successful summer. While Bob and Linda struggle to keep the business afloat, the kids try to solve a mystery that could save their family’s restaurant. As the dangers mount, these underdogs help each other find hope and fight to get back behind the counter, where they belong.

“The movie’s about optimism,” says Bouchard, who serves as the film’s co-director, co-writer and producer. “We wanted to tell a story about a family that does not have all the answers. They have not figured out how they’re going to pay for college or retirement—or how they’re even going to pay the bills next month—yet they’re irrepressibly buoyant and excited to get up each day. That kind of optimism feels especially relevant right now.”

INSIDE THE STORY

Just like Bob Belcher with his clever daily specials, the “Bob’s Burgers” creative team has long sought to take the most innovative approach possible to their work, devising adventures for the Belchers on television and beyond. After cooking up holiday episodes and live table reads, the series’ cast and crew had embarked on rehearsals for a pair of special live shows set to take place at Los Angeles’ historic Orpheum Theater back in the summer of 2017. It was then that Loren Bouchard got the call asking if he’d like to make a “Bob’s Burgers” movie.

Given the ambitious nature of the production he’d been planning—which would feature the cast performing well-known songs from the TV show with a full backing band, enormous puppets and copious amounts of confetti—the timing felt fortuitous. “I felt like we were ready to try to scale up ‘Bob’s’ and do something that would be worth going to the theater to see,” he says. “We were already thinking about taking a small show about a restaurant and a family and making it feel so big that it pinned you back in your seat.”

Yet as Bouchard and “Bob’s Burgers” co-showrunner Nora Smith set out to write a story that would feel big enough for the big screen, both understood that their screenplay could not fundamentally alter the DNA of the series. “We had a specific problem from the beginning, which is how do you tell a story that doesn’t break the show?” Bouchard says. “A movie is an exciting event in which characters are transformed, their lives are forever changed. But we couldn’t change our characters’ lives so significantly that you can’t pick up the next day with them going back to work and be this little struggling restaurant.”

In time, they settled on an idea that was part murder mystery, part musical—and entirely in keeping with the show’s unconventional bent. “We really liked genre-jumping, so it was going to

be our mash-up of those things with comedy in there and action-adventure in there, too," Bouchard says. Most importantly, though, their script would be squarely centered on the show's endearing cast of characters. "We've come too far, and we've spent too long being a character-driven show, to switch to being a story-driven movie," Bouchard says. "We had to be a character-driven movie with a great story."

"The Bob's Burgers Movie" opens with the family preparing for what will surely be the sunny-side-up summer of their lives. Linda is confident the bank will grant an extension on their loan payment; Bob, not so much. "In a way, Linda is the captain of the ship, because she's the one with the most positive energy," says H. Jon Benjamin, who stars as Bob Belcher. "Bob is a bit of a cynic." Lovestruck Tina is hatching a scheme to make crush Jimmy Jr. her boyfriend, and Gene is excited to play some shows with his underappreciated but influential band, The Itty Bitty Ditty Committee—he's even created a rad new musical instrument sure to take the town by storm.

But things take a turn for the worse when an enormous sinkhole opens across the entirety of the restaurant's storefront. Suddenly, Bob and Linda are forced to find unconventional ways to sell enough burgers to pay the bills, with a little help from their most loyal customer, Teddy. Meanwhile, the children begin to unearth surprising truths about local waterfront amusement park the Wonder Wharf, as well as the family's wealthy landlord, Mr. Fischoeder, and themselves.

The adventure becomes particularly poignant for young Louise, with the screenwriters exploring just how the youngest Belcher came to wear her signature pink hat. "We wanted that to feel lived-in and real and sweet," Bouchard says. "Our secret hope was that this isn't just a mystery where this family saves the town—it's the story about a nine-year-old girl and how she can get to that place at the very end of the movie where the hat falls off and she's ok."

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Once Bouchard and Smith had completed the script in 2018, Bouchard, directing partner Bernard Derriman and their team of storyboard artists began sketching out early versions of every scene in the film. For the showstopping musical production numbers, which see dozens of characters singing and dancing their way across the screen, Derriman turned to Smith for some very specific inspiration. "I was trying to give all the characters natural movements—coming up with our dance moves was a big part of that," says Derriman. "Nora Smith was great at doing reference for us. When I was animating, she'd prop her phone up in her kitchen and do a really funny dance. It would always translate so well to animation."

Every aspect of the production involved remaining true to all the characteristics that make "Bob's Burgers" so specific and unique, while at the same time amplifying them to create a true cinematic experience. Chiefly, despite the current mainstream popularity of 3D animation, directors Bouchard and Derriman were only interested in making a traditional 2D animated film that had the same aesthetic as their series. "We felt a little like an underdog championing an old

form, but 2D has a lot to offer," Bouchard says. "In my opinion it's the most beautiful form of animation. You can feel the artist's hand in the line and enjoy the colors."

In terms of visuals, Bouchard and Derriman collaborated closely with production designer Ruben Hickman, whose skill with light and shadow helped bring depth and dimension to the world of the film. The creative team also partnered with conductor and orchestrator Tim Davies ("Trollhunters: Tales of Arcadia"), who brought in a full orchestra to record the music for "The Bob's Burgers Movie" at the storied Newman Scoring Stage on the Fox Studio Lot. "Our sound is a little bit of a flea market orchestra, a little bit of an eBay special, oddball instrument lineup, so for a lot of us it was the first moment where it was like, 'This is a real movie!'" Bouchard says. "To see all the string players in that big space watching the film on the screen and playing these soaring cues, to hear the timpani players banging on their drums, it was thrilling."

Still, much of the work on "The Bob's Burgers Movie" was completed remotely, including the performances. During the summer of 2020, the actors recorded their lines in their own homes, with support from the behind-the-scenes team. "Most of the time, they were crawling into closets and bringing a whole ton of pillows and cushions in to muffle the sound," Derriman says. "We'd always planned for them to re-record what they'd originally done in a studio, but as it turned out, some of the takes we got in those closets just worked great and we fell in love with them. Sometimes, it's really hard to recapture that energy."

Although it took years to bring together the story and the visuals, along with the heartfelt performances and the memorable music, investing so much time in the film allowed the cast and crew to achieve the creative goals they had set for themselves. It also ensured that the COVID-19 pandemic had reached a phase where it would be safe for audiences to gather in theaters to enjoy "The Bob's Burgers Movie." "We got the blessing of a little more time," Bouchard says. "Everyone was committed to making it work."

H. Jon Benjamin, for one, was impressed with Bouchard's unwavering commitment to the project and his enduring love for all the members of the Belcher clan. "Loren's such the driving force of the show," Benjamin says. "He created the whole world. He handpicked the characters in a way—casting was a big part in the origins of the show. It's always so impressive how specific he is with his choices and communicating exactly what he wants, and then giving us the freedom to do what we do."

For both Bouchard and Smith, the sheer talent of the cast and the actors' profound understanding of the lovable characters they've now portrayed for more than a decade are the secret ingredients in the comedy's singular recipe—and one of the keys to the longevity of "Bob's Burgers."

"We have one of the best casts on TV—I know everybody says that, but I'm right," says Smith. "They're just all so funny, and a lot of those people had been working together for a long time, so when they seem like they are a family, it's because they have been a work family. When you write a show that has heart to it, you can write something funny, and it will stick with you."

Concludes Bouchard: "At the end of the day, you don't feel loyalty to the show, you feel loyalty to the characters—and that's because we've spent so much time imagining that they're real."

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

LOREN BOUCHARD (Director/Writer/Producer) is creator of FOX's Emmy® Award–winning hit series "Bob's Burgers," which recently celebrated its 200th episode. The series is currently in its 12th season on FOX and has been renewed for a 13th. "Bob's Burgers" earned two Emmy® Awards for best primetime animated program and has been nominated in the category 10 consecutive years. Bouchard also serves as a composer/musician on the show.

Bouchard co-created the Emmy®-nominated animated musical series "Central Park," which recently returned for a second season on Apple TV+ and has been renewed for a third. In addition, Bouchard is an executive producer of FOX's animated series "The Great North," which premiered in 2021 and has already been renewed for two additional seasons.

Born in New York City and raised in Massachusetts, Bouchard began his career in Boston. He was an editor, story writer and producer on the 1995 animated show "Dr. Katz: Professional Therapist," which ran for six seasons. The show won two CableACE Awards (which used to be a real award), an Emmy® Award and a Peabody Award.

Bouchard also produced the first season of the animated show "Science Court," which ran for three seasons. In 1999 he co-created "Home Movies," which aired for four seasons. In 2005 Bouchard created the animated show "Lucy, the Daughter of the Devil."

BERNARD DERRIMAN (Director) is an animator and director with more than 30 years' experience in the animation industry. He began his career with Walt Disney Studios in Sydney, Australia, where he worked on both television and feature productions. Derriman has written and directed numerous award-winning short films, most notably the viral video "Everyone Else Has Had More Sex Than Me." He started with "Bob's Burgers" in Season One as a story artist and is currently a supervising director on the show.

NORA SMITH (Writer/Producer) serves as co-showrunner and executive producer of the animated TV series "Bob's Burgers." Smith began as a staff writer in Season One and rose through the ranks to her current position. The show, now in its 12th season, is a seven-time Primetime Emmy® Award nominee and two-time winner in the outstanding animated program category. Smith received a WGA Award nomination in 2015 for the episode "Work Hard or Die Trying, Girl." Smith began her career interning for Adult Swim's "The Brak Show" and "Aqua Teen Hunger Force." She followed up with various animation positions on the dark comedy "Lucy, the

Daughter of the Devil." In March 2019 she expanded her relationship with 20th Century Fox Television with an overall deal.

ABOUT THE CAST

H. JON BENJAMIN (Bob Belcher) has garnered an extensive list of credits as a writer, producer and actor in some of television's most entertaining series. Along with his role on "Bob's Burgers," Benjamin is the voice of Sterling Archer on "Archer," which earned him a 2010 Emmy® Award nomination for outstanding voice-over performance. He also produced and starred in the cable comedy series "Jon Benjamin Has a Van." He appeared in the streaming series "Wet Hot American Summer: Ten Years Later" and "Master of None."

Benjamin provided the voice of Dr. Katz's lazy son, Ben, in the animated series "Dr. Katz, Professional Therapist" from 1995 to 1999. In 2006 he and David Cross co-created the animated series "Freak Show." Benjamin also teamed up with Demetri Martin as a writer and co-producer of "Important Things with Demetri Martin." Other credits include "Home Movies," "Family Guy," "Assy McGee," "Aqua Teen Hunger Force" and "The Venture Bros."

DAN MINTZ (Tina Belcher) is a writer, performer and producer. Originally from Anchorage, Alaska, he started as a stand-up in Boston and went on to perform on shows such as "Late Show with David Letterman," "Jimmy Kimmel Live," "Late Night with Conan O'Brien," "Late Night with Seth Meyers" and "Comedy Central Presents: Dan Mintz." His stand-up album, "The Stranger," was identified as one of the year's best by New York Magazine's Vulture.com.

Mintz has guest starred on "Silicon Valley," "The Goldbergs" and "Speechless," while writing for such shows as "Nathan for You," "Human Giant" and the Emmy® Award–winning series "Veep." Additionally, Mintz served as executive producer on "The Awesomes" and in 2017 earned a WGA Award nomination for his script, "A Taste of Zephyria," on "Son of Zorn."

EUGENE MIRMAN (Gene Belcher) immigrated from Moscow with his family at age 4. He grew up in Lexington, Mass.; attended Hampshire College, where he designed his own comedy major, doing a one-hour stand-up set as his thesis; and has since gone on to a successful career on TV, stage and film.

On TV, the comedian and actor can currently be heard as the voice of Gene Belcher on FOX's Emmy Award®–winning "Bob's Burgers." He has appeared on many other TV shows, including "Flight of the Conchords," "Delocated," "Archer," "Broad City," "StarTalk," "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver," "Inside Amy Schumer," "Conan," "The Colbert Report," "Late Night with Seth Meyers," "@midnight," "Aqua Teen Hunger Force," "Home Movies" and more.

As a stand-up, Mirman started his career in Boston before moving to New York, where he was one of the kingpins in the city's early alt-comedy scene. Mirman has two Comedy Central stand-up specials, and his comedy special "Vegan on His Way to the Complain Store" is available on Amazon. He has released five comedy albums, including his epic Sub Pop Records release "I'm Sorry (You're Welcome)," which was made available in multiple formats including a nine-volume digital set, seven LPs, a chair and a robe. As a touring headliner, Mirman has performed on stages around the world and at festivals including Edinburgh Fringe, Sasquatch, Bonnaroo, SXSW, SF Sketchfest and many more.

Along with Julie Smith Clem, Mirman co-founded the comedy production company Pretty Good Friends, which began as a weekly comedy show in Brooklyn and grew into tours, large outdoor shows and TV and radio projects. Out of these shows, Mirman and Clem also created the Eugene Mirman Comedy Festival, which started as a joke and became an annual institution in Brooklyn for 10 years. The festival also spawned the documentary film "It Started as a Joke," which celebrates Mirman's unique brand of humor and his role in the alternative comedy movement, providing a window into his personal life in the process.

Chronicling the decade-long run of Mirman's comedy festival, including the farewell show, the feature film documentary "It Started as a Joke" includes interviews with Michael Ian Black, Kristen Schaal, Wyatt Cenac, Ira Glass, John Hodgman, Kumail Nanjiani, Reggie Watts and Michael Showalter, along with performances by Janeane Garofalo, Jim Gaffigan, Jon Glaser, Mike Birbiglia, Bobcat Goldthwait, Michael Che and more. The film is available on most streaming platforms.

LARRY MURPHY (Teddy) began performing sketch comedy and characters onstage in Cambridge, Mass. He was a regular sketch performer on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien." As a comedic actor, his credits include "Jon Benjamin Has a Van," "Delocated," "Difficult People" and "Inside Amy Schumer." He has voiced numerous characters on animated shows. On "Bob's Burgers," he plays Teddy, Gretchen and Edith Cranwinkle. Other animated credits include "Home Movies," "Archer," "The Venture Bros.," "Ugly Americans," "Assy McGee," "Word Girl" and "Aqua Teen Hunger Force."

JOHN ROBERTS (Linda Belcher) was nominated for an Emmy® Award in 2015 for outstanding character voice performance in "Bob's Burgers." In addition, Roberts has appeared several times on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon," "Watch What Happens Live with Andy Cohen" and "Archer." He also is featured on Blondie's 2018 critically acclaimed album, "Pollinator." Roberts has toured nationally with "Bob's Burgers Live," as well as on two international tours with Margaret Cho. He currently performs at colleges all over the country.

Roberts first gained national attention as one of YouTube's original pioneers. His first viral video, "The Christmas Tree," was hailed as an instant comedy classic and was nominated for a broadband Emmy® Award. The follow-up, "Jackie & Debra," won the Comedy Smalls Award in London and has a huge cult following, both young and old. His work has more than 30 million views on YouTube.

His first music EP, “John Roberts,” produced by Big Black Delta, was released in July of 2019. His single “Looking” reached the Top 10 on U.K. dance charts. His single “Freaks,” produced by Junior Sanchez, was released on October 31, 2020, followed by a full album in 2021, produced by Sanchez and featuring Beth Ditto and Debbie Harry. Remixes by Harry Romero and Felix Da Housecat charted worldwide. Roberts has new music coming out in 2022 with Babydaddy from Scissor Sisters as well as live performances.

He can be seen in Joel Kim Booster and Bowen Yang’s film “Fire Island” this summer.

KRISTEN SCHAAL (Louise Belcher) has established herself as one of the most versatile and sought-after comedic talents in television and film. Schaal can be seen starring in the hit Disney+ series “The Mysterious Benedict Society” and Season Three of the Emmy®-nominated FX series “What We Do in the Shadows.” Additionally, Schaal stars in FOX’s “Bob’s Burgers” and previously starred opposite Will Forte in “The Last Man on Earth,” also for FOX.

Schaal’s many film credits include “Bill and Ted Face the Music” opposite Keanu Reeves and Alex Winter, as well as Amazon Prime/STX’s film “My Spy” opposite Dave Bautista. She voiced the role of Trixie in “Toy Story 4.” She’s made numerous appearances as the Senior Women’s Correspondent for “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart,” tackling topics such as sexism, gender wage equality, political campaigns and, sometimes, “dad bods.” Also on Comedy Central, she had an hour stand-up special, “Live at the Fillmore,” which was the first bomb ever recorded. Her half-hour special and other stand-up appearances are all available on a very modern DVD.

Other television credits include “Flight of the Conchords,” “Gravity Falls” and “30 Rock.” In theater, Schaal appeared in “The Coward” at Lincoln Center and was awarded the Lucille Lortel Award for outstanding featured actress for her performance.